(b) the funds allocated and utilized by each Project;

(c) the projects still incomplete despite having sufficient funds; and

(d) the specific reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Raichur-Guntakal doubling project has been sanctioned in 2003-04 at a cost of Rs. 136.62 crore.

(b) Rs. 19 crore has been provided for this project during 2005-06. An expenditure of about Rs. 1.47 crore has been incurred on this project till date and actual expenditure incurred would be known after finalisation of accounts for the year.

(c) and (d) The project has been identified for execution by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). Final Location Survey has been completed. Tenders are under process and land acquisition has been taken up.

Vacancies in Group D in safety category and RPF

1324. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2000 vacancies in Group D in safety category and 3500 vacancies in RPF are laying vacant for long; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to acute shortage of staff, Station Masters are forced to perform commercial duties like sale of tickets, booking of parcels/goods, attending public queries, etc. causing lapses in train operations and compromising with safety of trains/operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There exist more than 20,000 vacancies in Group 'D' category in safety categories about 1375 vacanies in Railway Protection Force.

(b) Station Masters do perform commercial duties at stations where separate staff is not justified due to less workload as the posting of commercial staff at the stations depends on the number of tickets sold at the station. Performance of commercial duty has always been part of the duty list of Station Masters.